

From the Author's Desk
Susan Power Introduces "Museum Indians"

DIRECTIONS: Use the space provided to answer the questions.

1. In her commentary, what does Susan Power mean by the term *oral tradition*?

2. What does the author mean when she says that the Native American origin myths are meant to be "flexible" and "interactive"?

3. According to the author, why is she herself not a traditional storyteller?

4. What aspects of Shakespeare's plays fascinated Susan Power when she was young? Why does she think that Shakespeare would have felt at home in the Native American world?

5. What does the author mean when she says that she could not find herself on the literary map?

6. Identify four specific ways in which the oral tradition contrasts the written tradition.

7. The writer asserts that, in the essay "Museum Indians," she has tried to capture oral literature in printed words. Do you think this goal can be achieved? Why or why not? Briefly explain your answer.

8. If you had a chance to interview Susan Power, what are two questions you might like to ask her?

